

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278200

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, ECON, RO

SUBJECT: MAUSCHITZ CASE

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 5753; (B) BUCHAREST 5768

1. DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED DECEMBER 19 BY HARTSHORN, EXECUTIVE VP OF GENERAL REFRACTORIES, WHO REPORTED THAT HE HAD CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BOGDAN PREVIOUS DAY AND DISCUSSED MAUSCHITZ CASE WITH HIM AT LENGTH. HARTSHORN SAID HE MADE A FORCEFUL PRESENTATION, AND FOUND BOGDAN "POLITE" BUT PROFESSING TO KNOW NOTHING. BOGDAN PROMISED HE WOULD ENQUIRE. (APPOINTMENT FOR HARTSHORN HAD BEEN MADE BY SENATOR SCOTT'S OFFICE. SENATOR SCOTT HAS NOT YET CONTACTED DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE CASE.)

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2. HARTSHORN RECENTLY REPORTED INFO FROM WICK IN BUCHAREST THAT MAUSCHITZ HAS BEEN READ INDICTMENT WHICH CHARGES HIM WITH A "MILITARY" CRIME AGAINST THE STATE AND ASSESSES TOTAL OF DOLS U.S. 518,000 IN FINES.

3. ACCORDING TO HARTSHORN, WICK HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY FROM FIRM TO PAY IN ORDER TO FREE MAUSCHITZ. HARTSHORN HAS TOLD WICK HE WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TODAY (DECEMBER 19), AND HAS ASKED WICK TO REMAIN IN BUCHAREST UNTIL DECISION IS MADE. HARTSHORN, WHO IS AWARE OF EMBASSY'S COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIANS IN THE CASE, ASKED THAT EMBASSY REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH WICK. HARTSHORN WAS ALSO INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT OF EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH STANCIU AND OPREA (REFTELS), AND HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

4. DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING CALLING IN BOGDAN ON THE MATTER. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY RECENT INFO EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP RE SUBSTANCE OF CHARGES AGAINST MAUSCHITZ AND EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THEM. AS GENERAL REFRACTORIES DECISION MAY BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE, REQUEST REPLY ASAP.

5. HARTSHORN ALSO SAID THAT GENERAL REFRACTORIES HAD TOLD ROMANIANS SEVERAL YEARS AGO THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY TO PRODUCE ITS HIGH TECHNOLOGY REFRACTORY MATERIALS IN ROMANIA. HARTSHORN SAID HE UNDERSTANDS GOR IS STILL PLANNING EXPANSION OF STEEL INDUSTRY AND REMAINS WILLING TO SHARE ITS TECHNOLOGY, ASSUMING MAUSCHITZ CASE CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. BOGDAN WAS TOLD THIS DECEMBER 19, AND HARTSHORN AUTHORIZES EMBASSY ALSO TO UTILIZE THIS INFORMATION ON MAUSCHITZ' BEHALF IF AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

6. MAUSCHITZ CASE WAS RAISED BY ARMITAGE IN DECEMBER 19 CALL BY AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO PROFESSED TO KNOW LITTLE IF ANYTHING ABOUT THE CASE. KISSINGER

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